1. In an entertainment system that includes a video recording apparatus, a method for automatically recording a fragmented program that includes a series of fragments that are temporally separated from each other and that have been designated as being related one to another in a way other than being episodes of an ongoing, repeating series, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving user input requesting the series of fragments to be recorded without requiring the user to separately identify each of the fragments in the series;

in response to said user input, examining electronic program guide data and identifying each of the fragments in the series; and

for each of the fragments, automatically determining a start time for the fragment and recording the fragment with the video recording apparatus when the fragment is aired.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the acts of:

determining an end time for the fragment; and

deactuating the video recording apparatus when the fragment is completed.

3. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the fragmented program is a mini-series.

4. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the fragmented program is a sporting event.

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5. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the fragmented program is a group of television programs on a television network that are designated as being related.

6. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said user input is received through the use of a categories menu.

7. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said electronic program guide data includes an identifier for uniquely identifying the fragmented program.

8. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein said electronic program guide data includes an identifier that is common to the fragments and uniquely identifies the fragments from other programs.

9. A method as recited in claim 2, further including the act of repeatedly updating the system for each of the fragments as to said start time for the fragment through the use of current electronic program guide data.

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10. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein said act of repeatedly updating further includes identifying when a scheduling change occurs for any of the fragments.

11. A method as recited in claim 2, further including the acts of:

determining whether the fragmented program is reoccurring; and

if the fragmented program is reoccurring, automatically setting a reminder to record a subsequent occurrence of the fragmented program.

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12. In a system that includes a video recording apparatus, a method for automatically recording episodes of a television program so as to compile a non-repeating archive of the episodes during a period of time, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving user input specifying that the episodes of the television program are to be recorded; and

in response to said user input, and iteratively during the period of time, performing the following acts, such that a plurality of episodes of the television program are recorded without recording particular episodes more than once:

using electronic program guide data to identify an episode of the television program;

determining whether said episode has been previously recorded;

if it is determined that said episode has not been previously recorded, automatically recording said episode; and

if it is determined that said episode has been previously recorded, automatically refraining from recording said episode.

13. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein said electronic program guide data includes an identifier to uniquely identify said episode.

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14. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein said act of using electronic program guide data further includes updating the system as to any programming change related to said episode.

15. A method as recited in claim 12, further performing the acts of:

determining whether said television program is reoccurring; and

if said television program is reoccurring, automatically setting a reminder to record a subsequent occurrence of said television program.

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16. In a system that includes a video recording apparatus, a method for automatically recording first-run episodes of a television program so as to compile an archive of the first-run episodes during a period of time, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving user input specifying that the first-run episodes of the television program during the period of time are to be recorded;

using electronic program guide data to identify each of the first-run episodes of the television program that are scheduled to be aired during the period of time; and

for each of the first-run episodes, performing the acts of:

determining whether a first-run episode has been aired;

if it is determined that said first-run episode has not been aired, automatically recording said first-run episode; and

if it is determined that said first-run episode has been previously aired, performing the acts of:

determining whether said first-run episode is scheduled to be aired at a future time; and

if said first-run episode is scheduled to be aired at a future time, automatically recording said first-run episode at said future time.

17. A method as recited in claim 16, wherein upon determining that said first-run episode has been previously aired, further performing the act of if said first-run episode is not schedule to be aired at a future time, informing a viewer that said first-run episode has already aired and is not scheduled to be aired at a future time.

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18. A method as recited in claim 16, wherein said electronic program guide data includes an identifier to uniquely identify each of the first-run episodes.

19. A method as recited in claim 16, wherein said act of using electronic program guide data further includes updating the system as to a programming change related to the first-run episodes.

20. A method as recited in claim 19, wherein if said programming change relates to a new time of airing one of the first-run episodes, which was originally determined to have already aired and was not scheduled to air at a future time, further performing the act of automatically recording said one of the first-run episodes at said new time.

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21. A recording system for recording video data corresponding to a fragmented program, the recording system comprising:

a signal receiver for receiving a signal that carries programming, wherein said programming includes a fragmented program, which includes a plurality of fragments that are scheduled to be aired over a series of days;

a user input interface coupled to said signal input, wherein said user input interface receives user input requesting said plurality of fragments to be recorded without requiring a user to separately identify each fragment of said fragmented program, and wherein upon receipt of said user input electronic program guide data is used to identify each fragment of said fragmented program; and

a signal recorder coupled to said signal input for sequentially recording onto a storage medium each of said plurality of fragments.

22. A recording system as recited in claim 21, wherein said electronic program guide data includes an identifier that is common to said fragments and uniquely identifies said fragments from the programs.

23. A recording system as recited in claim 21, wherein said electronic program guide data includes a common title to identify each said fragment.

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24. A recording system as recited in claim 21, wherein said user input interface includes a categories list to enable a user to select said fragmented program for recording.

25. A recording system as recited in claim 21, further including a recording list preserved on a storage device coupled to said user input interface, wherein said recording list itemizes one or more fragmented programs that correspond to said plurality of fragments to be recorded.

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26. A computer program product for implementing within a home entertainment system a method for recording a fragmented program so as to provide a viewer a collection of all of the fragments of the fragmented program, the computer program product comprising:

a computer readable medium for providing computer program code means utilized to implement the method, wherein the computer program code means is comprised of executable code for implementing the acts of:

receiving user input requesting a series of fragments of the fragmented program to be automatically recorded;

examining electronic program guide data to identify when each of said series of fragments is scheduled to air; and

sequentially recording said each of said series of fragments to provide the user with a collection of said series of fragments.

27. A computer program product as recited in claim 26, wherein said user input is received through the use of a menu system that identifies one or more fragmented programs that are scheduled to air during a period of time, and wherein the fragmented program is one of said one or more fragmented programs.

28. A computer program product as recited in claim 26, wherein said act of examining electronic program guide data further includes identifying any scheduling change in the airing of said series of fragments.

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29. A computer program product as recited in claim 26, wherein if said user input includes a request to only record fragments of the fragmented program that are first-run episodes, said act of examining further includes determining whether any of said series of fragments is a first-run episode, and wherein said act of sequentially recording further includes recording only fragments that are first-run episodes.

30. A computer program product as recited in claim 26, further including the acts of:

determining whether the fragmented program is reoccurring; and

if the fragmented program is reoccurring, automatically setting a reminder to record a subsequent occurrence of the fragmented program.

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